

Designation of Protected Areas – Under the NATURA 2000 network

Phase 1

- **Selection, proposal and national assessment of sites under the Habitats Directive** – in Germany, sites are proposed by the *Länder* according to criteria laid down in the Habitats Directive (see below) and with consultative support from BfN.
- **Submission of site proposals** - Precise site data and maps are submitted to the European Commission in accordance with Article 4 of the Habitats Directive and Decision 97/266/EC (fig 2).

Phase 2

- **Biogeographical regions** - EU territory is divided into biogeographical regions based on geographical and climatic variations. (s. Abb. 2).
- **Biogeographical seminars** - At least two EU biogeographical seminars are held for each biogeographical region to assess whether the proposed share of natural habitats types and species for each member state is sufficient to safeguard and attain a favourable conservation status for the natural habitats and species. If not, member states are asked to propose more sites within a set period.
- **Reference lists** - of all natural habitat types and species found in each member state are compiled to verify that a sufficient share of natural habitats and species are covered.
- **Assessment of the importance of proposed sites** - is performed separately for each biogeographical region in accordance with the criteria of Annex III, Stage 2.



- **Selection of Special Protected Areas** – by direct designation of the most suitable territories in number and size for conservation of the species of Annex I (Art. 4) of Birds Directive.
- **Direct admission** – in the NATURA 2000 network.

Habitats
Directive
(92/42/EEC)

Phase 1

Compilation of national
proposals for sites of
Community importance

Phase 2

Identification of sites of
Community importance at EU
level

Designation as Protected
Areas by member states
NATURA 2000 network

Bird Directive
(79/409/EWG)

- **German states (*Länder*):** Site selection, proposal and assessment, public consultation, submission (of standard data sheet and maps) to the German Federal Environment Ministry.
- **German Federal Environment Ministry:** Policy responsibility, consultation with other federal ministries, forwarding of proposals to the EU via Germany's foreign representation.
- **German Federal Agency for Nature Conservation:** Scientific support, consultative advice to the *Länder* on site selection and national site assessment, verification that sufficient sites are proposed and of coherence along *Länder* borders

- **European Commission, DG Environment:** Holding of biogeographical seminars, compilation of reference lists, assessment of the importance of proposed sites, selection of most suitable sites for the Community List.
- **Member states:** Participation in biogeographical seminars, statements of opinion on the reference lists.
- **European Topic Center on Biological Diversity (ETC/BD):** Biodiversity-related and technical support for the European Commission.
- **Habitats Commission:** Decision-making body composed of member state delegates, adopts implementation documents.
- **Scientific Working Group:** Member state group set up to prepare and support resolutions of the Habitats Committee.
- **NGO representatives:** Statements of opinion on site selection and reference lists.
- **Independent experts:** Scientific advisers appointed by the Commission for the biogeographical seminars.



- **Member States** – Selection and designation of Special Protected Areas, submission of all relevant informations to the EU.
- **European commission** – admission of the sites in the Natura 2000 network.